(c) whether there have been complaints from the tourists about the non-compliance of flight safety measures; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The flight has proved to be very successful and is operating at approximately 90 per cent of the occupancy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Communal disturbances in Meerut

*273. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited or has sent a team of officers to Meerut in connection with the communal disturbances there in the recent past;

(b) if so, what is his or the team's assessment in this regard;

(c) how many persons have been killed and injured in the communal disturbances;

(d) how many persons have been taken into custody in this connection and how many of them have since been released; and

(e) whether the Union Government have given any advice to the State Governments to check the incidents of communal violence and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (b) The Home Minister visited the riot affected areas of Meerut on 19th April, 1987. Similarly, ever since the occurrence of communal violence in Meerut on the evening of 14th April, 1987, the Central authorities remained in constant touch with the State authorities.

The communal incidents in Meerut were the handiwork of anti-social and communal elements.

(c) According to the information furnished by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, 10 persons were killed and 23 injured in the recent communal disturbances at Meerut.

(d) A total of 609 persons had been arrested in connection with the recent communal incidents at Meerut till 25th April, 1987. The release of arrested persons would be in accordance with the provisions of the various laws.

(e) The Central Government remains continuously in touch with the State Governments with a view to preventing and controlling communal riots as also for providing such help and assistance as is required by the concerned State Governments. It would be recalled that in July, 1985, comprehensive guidelines for promotion of communal harmony and preventing communal riots were reviewed, revised and re-circulated to all the State Governments/UTs. The Home Minister in particular addressed all the State Governments/UTs in October, 1986, emphasising direct responsibility of the District's Civil and Police officials in maintaining communal harmony. Again on 30th December, 1986 the State Governments/Uts were issued instructions on how to control and regulate religious processions.

Export of tea and rice

*274. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the exports in quantity and value of tea and rice to each country in the years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) the reasons for decline in exports of both tea and rice to the Middle East countries;

(c) the steps being taken to improve exports of these items to Middle East countries;

(d) what are the factors leading to increased exports of tea and rice from the neighbouring countries to the Middle East whereas the Indian exports have gone down;

(e) what will be the position of Indian tea and rice exports to the Middle East countries this year in terms of quantity and value; and

(f) which are the countries where sale improvement is expected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Country-wise export figures of tea and rice in terms of quantity and value during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 are enclosed [*See* Appendix CXLII Annexure No. 74]

(b) There is slight decline in export of tea to Middle East countries due to lack of sustained demand on account of decline in oil prices and lower prices offered by some of the producing countries. Overall requirement of rice in the Middle East has declined due to repatriation of migrant labour.

(c) The Government is taking steps to improve the exports of Indian tea in general through various fiscal incentives and promotional measures. A pilot project for uninational-*cum*-brand-promotion of Indian value-added teas with an outlay of Rs. 50 lakhs has been launched in ARE.

A scheme for authorising the exporters of basmati rice in consumer packs to spend a certain percentage of their F.O.B. earnings in foreign exchange is being worked out.

(d) The reasons for increased export of tea from other countries is mainly due to their low prices as compared to our prices.

In the case of basmati rice exports, Pakistan has advantages of account of uniform quality of the product and a single selling agency having flexibility in fixing export prices.

(e) and (f) It is difficult to forecast the export prospects precisely. Exports will depend on the international trading environment.

Daily wages workers in TFAI

*275. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of daily rated employees on rolls of the Trade Fair Authority of India and how many of them have been working for more than two years and have also completed more than 240 working days so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that they went on a strike on the 21st January, 1987 to press their demand for regularisation;

(c) whether many out of them and also from the regular ones have been removed from service;

(d) how many of the employees so removed belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(e) what is the policy regarding application of Fourth Pay Commission recommendations to the lower staff in the TFAI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The number of daily wage employees engaged by TFAI as on 10th April, 1987